

THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT.

Beginning of the Business Session.

Reading of the Commander-in-Chief's Address—Nominations for Commander-in-Chief—John McElroy Withdraws—Comrade Gilman Elected—Rochester Chosen for the Next Meeting Place.

The business session of the 44th National Encampment began at 10 a. m., Thursday, Sept. 22, in the magnificent auditorium at the end of the million-dollar steel pier. This pier extends out several hundred feet into the ocean. The seating accommodations were fine and the acoustical properties of the hall of the best class. The hall was handsomely decorated with flags, and its approach well guarded by comrades of the Department of New Jersey.

The session opened promptly at 10 o'clock with a prayer by Chaplain-General Ryan, of Indiana. Adj. Gen. George O. Eddy, from the Committee on Credentials, reported the official list of those entitled to seats in the Encampment, and accompanied this with a table as to the membership.

attention of every comrade in this presence. Twenty-five years ago, at the 19th Annual National Encampment, the Department of the Potomac presented a candidate for Commander-in-Chief who was elected and served the Order with great acceptance. I refer to that grand old comrade, Gen. Samuel S. Burdett, whose sunny smiles brighten this assembly.

The Department of the Potomac has not been honored by the National Encampment in the choice of its Commander-in-Chief for 24 years, while some Departments have had two or more. During this 24 years the Department of the Potomac has taken care of and entertained two National Encampments, namely, in 1882 and in 1902.

In everything but numerical strength the Department of the Potomac stands far in the front rank of the organization of the G. A. R.

The comrades lighted 50 years ago by the quiet shores of the Potomac are but ashes and a fading memory, but the spirit which moved among the campfires then is not quenched. It lives a quickening force in the lives and characters of the comrades who have constituted this splendid Department of the Potomac, the center of the world's civilization.

Out of this abundant material the Department of the Potomac proposes to-day a qualified successor to one and all of the grand men who have so ably and splendidly served the Order in the office of Commander-in-Chief.

Our candidate is a Past Department

STORMS SWEEP POLITICAL SKIES.

The Republicans Have a Fighting Chance for Next House—Anxiously Scanning the Battlefield—Hopes and Fears in Every State. The Northern Tier the Subject of Much Solicitude—The President's Deep Interest.

By the time President Taft leaves Washington this week he will be able to analyze the Congressional situation and ascertain in a measure just how "hopeless" it is. Ever since Congress adjourned it has generally been conceded in the next House a solid Democratic majority, and that contention has been emphasized more than ever since Maine went off on a political tangent. If the surprise of the election, his victory will bring him the all-important O. K. of Buckeye for the 1912 nomination. And by the same token that would advance his Presidential prospects President Taft's would depreciate.

The news dispatches have had frequent references to President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton, as the Democratic candidate for Governor of Ohio. The campaign for his election as Governor of New Jersey is being based in some part on assertions that if he can carry that State he will be able to carry the Republican State it will assure him large blocks of Democratic delegates less than two years from now, when the Democratic National Convention assembles.

The New York Democratic Convention, meeting this week, will decide whether that State is also to put a Democratic candidate into the running this early. One of the forceful pleas for Mayor Gaynor as a gubernatorial candidate is that his election would qualify him better for the race of 1912, because it would place him more in the public eye and demonstrate his possibilities as a National winner.

All these contents are in States that have been very solidly Republican. Such a situation has arisen that present indications favor Democratic standard bearers. In any event the Democrats and Congressional campaign will hardly be over before an intense scramble for advantage in the Presidential preliminaries will be on. This will be the most vigorous of the next House of Representatives is Democratic. The National Conventions will assemble a year from next June or July. Usually the conventions are held in the winter of discussion and agitation about candidates. This time there will probably be two such winters, and the coming summer, which means the Democrats will be free from National politics because there will be practically no elections, may be filled with Presidential campaign politics of an old-fashioned order.

A Little to Cheer the Republicans.

The Republican majority in the present House is 44, with 232 votes. On that basis an equal change of 21 votes would make the popular legislative branch Democratic. The Republicans, however, have a little to cheer them. The Democrats are holding a few seats in this House, which they are likely to lose in the next. It is hardly probable, for example, that they can elect Democrats from the Cape Cod district of Massachusetts or the Rochester district in New York. Colorado now has a solid Democratic delegation of three. The chances for the election of a Republican from the Cape Cod district of Massachusetts or the Rochester district in New York. Colorado now has a solid Democratic delegation of three. The chances for the election of a Republican from the Cape Cod district of Massachusetts or the Rochester district in New York. Colorado now has a solid Democratic delegation of three.

Unusual Excitement Along the North.

Republican States clear across the Northern tier are having unusual political excitement. It is a long time since there were so many fierce campaigns over local officials. In all four of the English States which have not yet decided the dominant party is defending itself against more or less serious dangers of Democratic inroads upon its official roster. Escaping Pennsylvania and West Virginia none of the Northern States this side of the Alleghenies is without a fierce campaign, in which Democrats have strong hopes of substantial winnings.

Between the mountains and the Mississippi, Michigan and Wisconsin are the only States where the turbulence of political campaigning between the two parties has not penetrated. The heat of a Presidential campaign usually centers in New York and Indiana. This year New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and two or three trans-Mississippi States will be in the thick of the fray, and every one of the next may cast the vote and have decided influence upon National politics. Each of those States happens to be in the class that elects a United States Senator, and will thus have a say as to whether the Republican majority in that Congressional branch shall be reduced to the danger point. The election of the next House of Representatives will be decided by the many wavering Congressional districts in the States enumerated. There are several outstanding questions of national importance which will make the October campaigning exceptional.

It is pointed out that the most quiet of the campaign is concerned in the insurgent States. Saving an occasional Congressional district there is little excitement about the vote will be, and the Democrats find no warrant for a struggle. But those States have their political hurly-burly at primary contests, which the insurgents carried with such sweep as to demonstrate the ability to elect their State and Congressional nominees.

Members of the Cabinet.

President Taft will soon start a few members of his Cabinet into the campaign. This will be one of a variety of Administration efforts to inject vigor into National and State politics during the month of October. The President's sympathy in almost every Republican quarter. The Congressional Committee, with headquarters in New York and Chicago, is unable to make any progress. Demoralization and discouragement prevail.

Some of the committee's most effective workers and orators of the biennial struggles during the last decade are of little use now. Speaker Cannon has generally been a strong card. His record of doubtful districts has been relied upon to arouse interest and to keynote Congressional issues. This year every Republican candidate in a district at all close is afraid to allow the Speaker to come before his constituents in these States they will be fairly certain of controlling the next House of Representatives.

Every one of these six States is the scene of more or less party scandal. There have been more or less serious party scandals in Illinois, Ohio and New York. Pennsylvania, the Republicans have a revolt within their ranks which threatens to give the Democrats five or six additional districts. New Jersey has been in much political turmoil, and as only three of the 10 Congressmen are now Democrats, is counted by the Democrats as a very promising field for their action.

The Republican Campaign Committee will center its efforts for the next six weeks very largely in the six States enumerated. The President has taken some pains to familiarize himself with the conditions, and will co-operate vigorously from this time on. The fact that New York and Pennsylvania, according to the best estimates of the committee's observers, are now likely to furnish 10 or 12 Democratic Congressional recruits, quite half of all that will probably be needed to carry the Republican campaign in Illinois, Ohio and New Jersey might easily furnish the other half if there is anything like the needed energy and determination to make the fight, and will not give up till the votes are counted.

Every October campaign, which will be in full swing shortly, promises to be quite as hotly contested and quite as momentous in its influence upon the country as the last decade. Since Bryan first stood forth. The last of the State and Congressional Conventions will have met within a few days, and the aspirants for big names, comprising an exceptional galaxy, will be afled.

Importance of the Election.

In some respects the October voting will be almost as Presidential as some of the one-sided quadrennial contests of the past decade. The shaping of the issues in several big States and the mustering of voters for the November test will likely affect the fortunes of President Taft as a candidate in 1912 and also influence Col. Roosevelt's



The Twentieth Time Honored.

be mentioned in the same connection, has gone down to defeat, and his name is written on the roll of Republican campaign casualties, already very long.

The Maine Election.

The Maine election has struck fresh terror to nine-tenths of the Republican candidates for Congress. There is accordingly increased difficulty in persuading any of these candidates to leave their own districts for stumping tours. With the demand for good Republican speakers exceedingly brisk, the President and his campaign managers are at their wits' end what to do. As a matter of fact, there is very little good speaking talent in the Cabinet available for the campaign. Perhaps the best popular speaker in that list is Secretary of War Dickinson, but he is a Democrat. Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh makes a pretty effective appearance on the platform, but he, too, is a Democrat. Neither of those two can do much toward urging the voters to support Republican candidates for Congress or for State offices.

Secretary Knox.

Secretary of State Knox will not plunge into the hurly-burly of campaigning. After much urging he usually consents to make a speech or two, and the President usually has him get him out upon the stump for a short while during October. Attorney-General Wickersham has a winning way with popular audiences, but can be sent only to particular localities. He is handicapped now by stinging utterances at Chicago last winter, reading insurgents out of the party and by popular criticism. Nevertheless, he and Secretary Knox can be relied upon to make strong efforts in behalf of the Administration policies.

Secretary Wilson.

Secretary of Agriculture, always comes out as a star orator before the farmers. He will be widely billed this autumn in that role. Secretary Nagel, of Commerce and Labor, is an excellent campaign orator, also hardly possessed of a National reputation as a stump speaker. He will be called upon to make a number of speeches during his tour of the Pacific Coast. Secretary Ballinger, always available for campaign work. Postmaster-General Hitchcock is very diffident about public speaking.

The President has now defined pretty thoroughly his attitude toward the campaign. These orators will do their utmost to arouse popular enthusiasm and interest in what he has done and proposes to do. But in spite of these and other plans which the President and his Cabinet will undertake to further the Republican campaign this year will be waged by local cabinet members and by a local candidate. The National Republican organization, which has heretofore been a very powerful factor in the campaign, is decidedly in all there will be great difficulties ahead in lifting the workers out of the slough of despond and in giving the party a new kind of momentum for October that makes a victory at all probable in November.

Republicans in charge of Federal legislative workers and orators of the biennial struggles during the last decade are of little use now. Speaker Cannon has generally been a strong card. His record of doubtful districts has been relied upon to arouse interest and to keynote Congressional issues. This year every Republican candidate in a district at all close is afraid to allow the Speaker to come before his constituents in these States they will be fairly certain of controlling the next House of Representatives.

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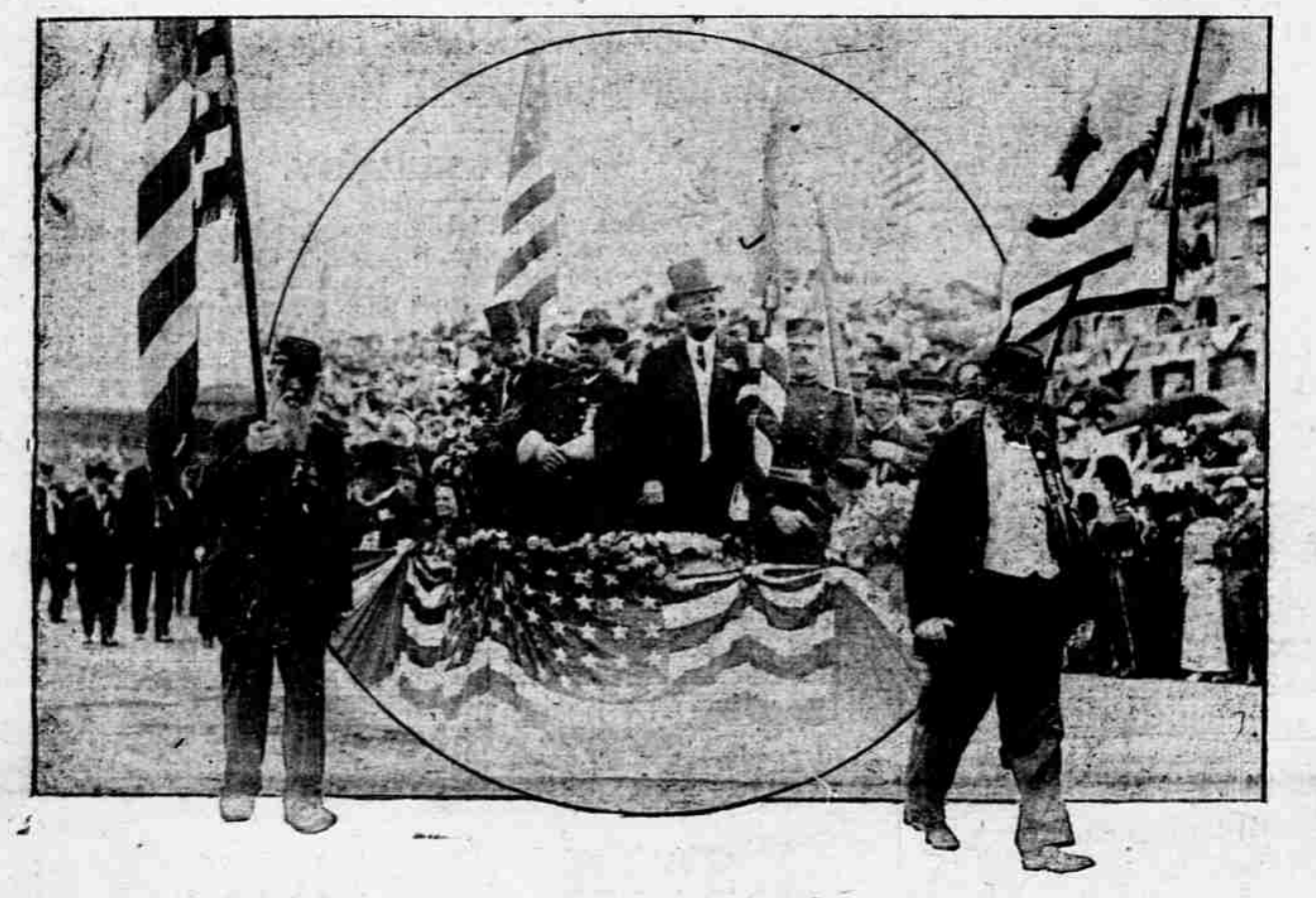
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The President Anxious.

The President fears of a Democratic House of Representatives have an important bearing also upon the situation just now. The President is quite as anxious as any Senate or House leader to get affairs arranged, not only for the sake of furthering the ordinary legislative work of the session, but to anticipate a Democratic landslide.

The lack of energy and of interest on the part of the old leaders was noticeable last winter as the insurgent movement gathered momentum. The President was the last to a number of these leaders who are either voluntarily withdrawing from public life or who have been left outside the breasting in the primary contests and elections to date.

Last year there was inadequate preparation.



A GLIMPSE OF THE PARADE AT ATLANTIC CITY.

(The center picture shows Commander Van Sant, Vice President Sherman and Col. Fort on the Reviewing Stand.)

Membership of the Encampment.

The Committee on Credentials presented the following report:

The Committee on Credentials report that after a careful examination of the roll of the membership of the 44th National Encampment of the G. A. R., to be held at Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 22 and 23, 1910, we find that the credentials as presented from the respective Departments are in strict accord with the roll as prepared by the Adjutant-General.

Number entitled to vote:

National officers.....	57
Past Commanders-in-Chief.....	16
Past Senior Vice Commanders-in-Chief.....	22
Past Junior Vice Commanders-in-Chief.....	19
Department officers.....	474
Representatives.....	474
Past Department Commanders.....	859
Total number on roll.....	1,622

Deducting duplications, the voting strength is.....1,579

The committee recommend the approval of the roll as presented.

Fraternally submitted—George O. Eddy, Chairman; Charles A. Suydam, Secretary.

Election of the Commander-in-Chief.

The hour of 3 o'clock having arrived, the Commander-in-Chief announced that the business in order was the election of the Commander-in-Chief, and ordered the Adjutant-General to call the roll. The roll was called by the Adjutant-General, and the interest very great. The roll call proceeded without interruption until Massachusetts was reached. The roll call was then interrupted by the Adjutant-General, who announced that the roll call was suspended until after the reading of the report of the Committee on Credentials. The roll call was then resumed, and the roll was called until the roll was closed.

Committees Appointed.

The following-named comrades were appointed by the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief as a Committee on the Report of the Commander-in-Chief:

Samuel S. Burdett, Chairman, Potomac; John C. Black, Illinois; James Tanner, New York; Henry Nevius, New Jersey; J. Kent Hamilton, Ohio.

Additional committees appointed by the Commander-in-Chief were announced as follows:

On the Report of the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief—George W. Cook, Colorado and Wyoming; Eli W. Hall, Massachusetts; J. H. Culver, Nebraska; M. McDonald, Iowa.

On the Report of the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief—Michael Minton, Kentucky; John F. Lovett, New Jersey; E. B. Fenton, Michigan.

(Continued on page two.)